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THE GREAT DEADWOOD MYSTERY.

BY BRET HARTE

Copyrighted 1826, by Houghton, Millin & Co., and published by arrangement with them.] "Stanislaus Joe," responded Mr. Eyder.
"Is that all?"

Miss Alice (satirically)—I suppose it's the custom here to send young ladies out with gentlemen who hide their names under an

Mr. Ryder (greatly perplexed)-Why, dear

art. Ryuer (greatly perplexed)—Why, dear my, Miss. Alice, you allers 'peared to me as a gal as was able to take keer —

Liss Alice (enterropsing with a wounded, dove-like timidity)—On, never mind, please!

The cabin offered but scanty accommodation to the tourists; which fact, when indignantly presented to Mrs. Distribution. lignantly presented to Mrs. Rightbody, was aplained by the good-humored Ryder from the circumstance that the usual hotel was only a slight affair of boards, cloth and paper, put up during the season, and partly dis-imathed in the fall. "You couldn't be kert warm erough there," he added. Noverthe-less Miss Alice noticed that both Mr. Ryder and Stanislaus Joe retired there with their pipes, after having prepared the ladies' suppor, with the assistance of an Indian woman, who apparently emerged from the earth at the coming of the party, and dis

earth at the coming of the party, and dis-appeared as mysteriously.

The stars came out brightly before they elept; and the next morning a clear, unwink-ing sun beamed with almost summer power through the shutterless window of their cabin, and tronically disclosed the details of cauch, and womenly disclosed the details of its rude interior. Two or three many, half-caten buffalo robes, a bearskin, some sus-picious looking blankets, rifles and saddles, deal tables and barrels made up its scant in-ventory. A strip of faded calico hung be-fore a recess near the chimney, but so black-ened by smoke and ago that even femining cupledry respected. curlodty respected its secret. Mrs. Think-body was in high spirits, and informed her daughter that she was at last on the track of her husband's unknown correspondent, "Seventy-four and Seventy-five represent two members of the vigilance committee, my-dear, and Mr. Ryder will assist me to find them."

"Mr. Ryder!" ejaculated Miss Alice, in

scornful astonishment.
"Alice," said Mrs. Rightbody, with a sus "Alice," said Mrs. Rightbody, with a suspicious assumption of sudden defence, "you injure yourself, you injure you by this exclusive attitude. Mr. Ryder is a friend of your father's, an exceedingly well informed gentleman. I have not, of course, imparted to him the extent of my suspicions. But he can help mo to want I must and will know. You might rest him a little more dville-or, at might treat him a little more eivilly—or, at least, a little better than you do his servant, your guide. Mr. Ryder is a gentleman, and not a pald courier."

Miss Alice was suddenly at entire. When she spoke again, she asked, "Why do you not find something about this Silsbie—who died or was hung—or something of that kind?"

"Child!" said Mrs. Highthody, "don't you see there was no Lisbie, or, if there was, he was simply the confidant of that—

A knock at the door, announcing the pres ence of Mr. Ryder and Stanislaus Joe the horses, checked Mrs. Rightbody's spe As the animals were being packed, Mrs. Rightbody for a moment withdrew in confidential conversation with Mr. Ryder, and, to the young lady's still greater annoyance, lett her alone with Stanislans Joe. Mass Alice was not in conditional. her alone with Stanislans Joe. Mass Alice was not in good temper, but she felt it necessary, to say something.

"I hope the hotel offers better quarters for travelers than this in summer," she began.

"It does."

"Then this does not belong to it?"

"I beg your pardon," stammered Miss Alice,
"I thought you lived where we hiredwhere we met you—in—in— You must ex "The not a regular galact, but as times were bard, and I was out of grub, I took the job," "Out of grub!" "job," And she was the "job." What would Henry Marvin say! It would nearly kill him. She begar besself to

feel a little frightened, and walked toward

as surly, and yet indicated a certain kind of the better of her prudence, and she turned

oncit.
"This morning," he began hastily, "when we were coming down the valley, you picked me up twice."
"I picked you up?" repeated the astonished

and here are the books to show it."

He drew aside the dingy calice curtain, revealed a small shelf of bulky books, took down too large volumes—one of hotany, one of geology—nervously sought his text, and put, then in Alice's outstretched hands.

"I had no intention," she began, half proudly, half embarrassedly.

"Am I right, miss" he interrupted.

"I presume you are, if you say so."

"That's all, ma'un. Thank you!"

Miss Alice felt her speech was a rocute con ventionalism, but it was all sine could say. She, however, did something. Hitherto it had been he habit to systematically reject his assistance in mounting to her seat. Now the assistance in mounting to her seat. Now the awaited him. As he approached she smidd and put out her little foot. He instantly steeped, she placed it in his hand, rule with a spring and for one supreme moment fitnishars Joe held her unresistingly in the arms. The next moment she was in the sandle, but instant brief interval of sixty securitizate had

ing at high interval of sixty accordingle had
a vilume in a six to sentence;

1. a will foreive may:

5. mattered a reply, and turned his face
acide quickly as if to hide it.

11 is Alice cantered forward with a smile,
hut pulled her hat down over her eyes as sha
joined her mother. She was blushing.

good as his word.
A day or two later
he entered Mrs.
Rightbody's parlor
at the Chrisopolis
hotel, in Stockton, with the informaseen the mysterious

senders of the dis were now have the three further informed her that these gentlemen had only sipulated that they should not reveal their real names, and that they should be introduced to her simply as the respective "Seventy-four" and "Seventy-five" who had signed the dispatch sent to the late Mr. Rightbody, they dispatch sent to the late Mr. Rightbody.

the dispatch sent to the rate air, rigmony,
Mrs. Rightbody at night denurred to this;
but, on the assurance from Mr. Ryder that
this was the only condition on which an
interview would be granted, finally con-

they are a little rough, ma'am. But, if you'd like me to be present, I'll stop; though I reches, if yo'd calaliated on that, you'd have had me take care o' your business by proxy, and not come yourself three thousand miles

Mrs. Rightbody believed it better to see

"All right, ma'am. Pil hang round out here; and ef yo should happen to hev a ti h-lin' in your throat, and a bad spell o' coughin', I'll drop in, carcless like, to see if you want them drops. Sabe i''

And with an exceedingly arch wink, and a slight familiar tap on Mrs. Rightbody's shoulder, which might have caused the late Mr. Rightbody to burst his acquichre, he with-

A very timil, hesitating tap on the down was followed by the entrance of two men, both of whom, in general size, strength, and with their diffident amountement. The room faced Mrs Plebrewly neknow edead

"I presume I have the pleasure of address-

"T presume I have the plassure of address-ing—" began Mrs. Righthody.
The man directly opposite Mrs. Righthody turned to the other inquiringly.
The other man nodded his head, and re-

pad: "Seventy-four."

other.

Mrs. Rightbody paused, a little confused.

"I have sent for you," she began again,
"to learn something more of the circumstances under which you gentlemen sent a
disrat-th to my late husband."

"The circumstances," replied Seventy-four quietly, with a side glance at his companion, "panned out about in this yer style. We hung a man, named Josh Silsbie, down at Deadwood for hoss stealin'. When I say I speak for Seventy-flve yer as is two other gents as is scattered. We hung axed him, accordin' to custom, of ther was enny thing he had to say, or cany request that he allowed to make of us. Its turns to

Seventy-five yer, and—"
Here he paused suddenly, looking at his

up the narrative—the sex, "In I write a letterf sex he. Sex I, 'Not rarch, ele man ye've rot no time." Sex he, 'Kin I send a dispatch by telegraph? I sex, 'Heave above its letter of the sex in the s He sez-these is his dientiful words-'Send to Adam Rightbody, Boston, Tell him to re-member his sarred compack with me thirty

"His mer'd compact with me thirty

om met was."
Hea. Rightbody lost her temper and her Circles together, "Of course," she sold riedly, "I know. But do you mean to say hat you gave this poor man no further char

o explain before you murdered him?"
Ecventy-four and Seventy-five I o'h rose
again slowly and retired. When they returned again and sat down, Seventy-flye

"Yes, contradicted me; that's what I meant once when you said those rocks were volcanic, once when you said the flower you picked was a poppy. I clidn't let on at the time, for it wasn't my say; but all the while you were talking I might have laid for you—"

"I don't understand you," said Alice haughtly.

"I might have entrapped you before folks.

"Ot in Canady," suggested Seventy-four.

"Or in Canady," suggested Seventy-four.

the water, or go to furrin parts, unless absointely necessary. We leaves the clies of wep-pings to your principal, ma'am, or being a lady, ma'am, and interested, to any one you may feet to act for him. An advertisement in any of the Sacramente papers, or a play-card or handbill stuck unto a tree near Dead-wood evings that Seconds for a Second card or handbill stuck unto a tree near Dead-wood, saying that Seyenty-four or Seventy-flve will communicate with this yer princi-pal or agent of yours, will fetch us—allers."

Mrs. Rightbody, a little alarmed and des-perate, saw her blunder "I mean nothing of the kind," she said hastily. "I only expected that you might have some further details of interview with Silable; that perhaps you had tall me—a bold, bright thou in crossed Rightbody's mind—"something more

a non-looked at each other.

Proposition

mai maio her ponetration good. XII sponder

esly, "Will you inform me to what extent Mr.

more animated than their previous confer-ences. She was a little mortified, however, when they sat down, to hear Seventy-four



"Do you not think that the 'se

m Mr. Rightbody and Mr. Silsbie

Mrs. Rightbody, flushed and animated, would have given worlds had her daughter been present to hear this undoubted confirm-ation of her theory. Yet she felt a little nerv-

"Sho's in Tuolumne," said Seventy-four.
"A little better looked arter than formerly,

"A fittle better looked arter than formerly," added Seventy-live.
"I see. Then Mr. Silsbin entired her away?" "Well, ma'am, it was allowed as she runned away. But it wasn't proved, and it generally wasn't her style."

Mys. Rightloody triffed with her next question. "Silsb was extincted."

on. "She was pretty, of course!"
The eyestif-told, unit bright "Hills"
"She was that?" said Seventy-four

phatically. "It would have done you good to see her?" Mrs. Rightbody inwardly doubted it; but. before she could ask another question, the two men again retired to the corner for consulta tion. When they came back there was a shade more of kindliness and confidence in

their manner, and Seventy-four opened his mind more freely.

"We wish to say, ma'am, looking at the thing, by and large, in a far-minded way, that, ez you seem interested, and ez Mr. Rightbody was interested, and was, accordto all accounts, deceived and led away by Silsbie, that we don't mind listening to any proposition you might make as a lady—allow-

in' you was chally interested."
"I understand," said Mrs. Rightbody
quickly. "And you will furnish me with any The two men again consulted

"We wish to say, ma'am, that we think sho's got papers, but—"
"I must have them, you understand," interrupted Mrs. Rightbody, "at any price."
"We was about to say ma'am," said Seventy five slowly, "that, considerin' all things —and you being a lady—you kin have her, papers, pedigree and guaranty, for \$1,200," It has been alleged that Mrs. Rightbody asked only one ou ation more and then fainted. It is known, however, that by the next day it was understood in Deadwood that Mrs. Rightbody had confessed to the vigilance committee that her husband, a celebrated Boston millionaire, auxious to gain possession of Abner Springer's well known sorrel mars, had incited the unfortunate Josh

Silsbie to steal it; and that finally, failing in this, the widow of the deceased Beston milonnire was now in personal negotiation with Howbeit, Miss Alice, returning he

"We will leave here by the next steamer," said Mrs. Rightbody languidly. "Mr. Ryder has promised to accompany us."

"The climate, Alice, is overrated. My nerves are already suffering from it. The as-sociations are unfit for you, and Hr. Marvin

cociations are unit for you, and Hr. Marvin is naturally impatient."

Miss Alice colored elightly.
"But your quest, mother?"
"I've alsandoned it."
"But I have not," said Alice, quietly. "Do you remember my guide at the Yesemite—Stanslawi Joe Is—who do you think?"

Mrs. Hightbody was languidly indifferent, "Well, Stanislaus Joe is the son of Joshus

Mrs. Righthody sat upright in astonish

Mrs. Rightbody sat upright in astonfilment.

"Yes. But, mother, he knows nothing of what we know. His father treated him shamefully, and set him cruelly adrift years ago; and, when he was hang, the poor fellow, in sheer disgrace, changed his name,"

"But, if he knows nothing of lifs father's compact, of what interest is this!"

"Oh, nothing! Only I thought it might lead to something."

Mrs. Rightbody suspected that "something," and asked sharply, "And pray how did you find it out! You did not speak of it in the valley,"

an you made out! You did not speak of it in the valley,"
"Oh! I didn't find it out till to-day," said Miss Alice, walking to the window. "He happened to be here, and—told me."

PART IV.

F Mrs. Rightbody's friends had been

friends had been astunded by her singular and unex-pected pilgrimage to California so soon after her hus-band's docesse, they wern still more as

only the scant history was known, as a Californian, and former corre-of her hu band. It was undentable

his grammar and slang. It was said that Mr. Marvin had but one interview with his father-in-law elect, and returned so su-premely disjusted that the match was broken off. The horse stealing story, more or less garbled, found its way through lips that pretended to decry it, yet eagerly repeated it. Only one member of the Rightbody family—

"Put you say he was college bred, and born a gentleman, and in his youth be must have and many friends."
"Alice," said the young man gravely, "when

member," she went on, scarcely heeding him, "that when I came in that night papa was reading a letter and seemed to be disconcerted." ecrica,"
"A letter?"
"Yes; but," added Allee, with a sigh, "when
we found him here insensible, there was no
letter on his person. He must have destroyed

found it might be a clow."

The young man glanced toward the cabinet. Alice read his eyes and answered; "Oh, dear, no! The cabinet contained only his papers, all perfectly arranged—you know how methodical wore his habits—and some old-masses approach private letters, all carefully

They opened drawe upon film of letters and rately folded and file tered a little cry and picked tipa qualit vor; paper knife lying at the bottom of a drawer "It was mission the

This is the drawer, said Alice eagerly.

Here was a clew. But the lower part of the drawer was filled with old letters not labeled, yet neatly arranged in files. Suddenly he stopped and said, "Put them back, Alice,

bandwriting."

said the girl imporatively. "Here, you take part and Pil take part and we'll get through respect. He took the letters and in sinche read them with her. They were old college letters, so filled with boyth dreams, ambi-tions, aspirations, and Utopian theories, that I fear neither of these young people even

the past. They were Lott, grave, until Alice uttered a little hysterical cry and dropped her face in her hands. Joe was instantly be-



"It's nothing, Jos, nothing. Don't read it." But Joe had, after a slight, half-playful struggle, taken the letter from the girl. Then he read aloud the words written by his father

he read aloud the words written by his father thirty years ago:

"It thank you, dear friend, for all you say about my wife and boy. I thank you for reminding me of our boyish compact. He will be ready to fulfill it, I know, if he loves those his father loves, even if you should marry years later. I am glad for your sake, for both our sakes, that it is a boy. Heaven send you a good wife, dear Adams, and a daughter, to make my son equally happy."

Jos Silshio looked down, took the half-laughing, half-tearful face in his hands, kissed her fore'lead, and, with tears in his grave oyes, said, "Amen!"

I am inclined to think that this a am richaed to think that the sential was echoed heartily by Mrs. Rightbody's former acquaintances, when, a year later, Miss Alice was united to a professional gen-

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ALLIGATORS IN THE BAHAMAS

Catesby, in his "Natural History

Catesby, in his "Natural History of Carolina, Fiorida and the Bahanm Islands," published about a century ago, speaks of having seen alligators on the Island of Andres in this group. At present there are none, and, with the object of finding out if there was noy tradition current bearing upon the subject, I made inquiries through the medium of The Nasau Guestian. and a new one—saved them from utter os-tracism. It was young Mr. Ryder, the adopted son of the prospective head of the and a new one—served them from utter ostracism. It was young Mr. Ryder, the adopted son of the prospective head of the householl, whose culture, manners and general elegance fancinated and thrilled looton with a new sensition. It seemed to many it. Mr. Alice should, in the vicinity of this received, for the former enthusiasm for a professional Lag; but the young man was provided by society, and various plans for diverting him from any mesalliance with the Rightholy family were conceeted.

It was a wintry night, and the second anniversary of Mr. Righthody's death, that a light was barraing in his Horary. But the dead man's chair was occupied by young Mr. Ryder, adopted son of the new proprietor of the mannsion; and before him stood Alice, with her dark eyes fixed on the table.

"There must have been something in it, Jos, believe me. Did you never hear your father peak of miner"

"Net you say he was college bred sudbers."

There seems, however, to be no reasoned and the manner of the manner of the manner of the section of the proposed of the letter, while on a visit to one of the settlements, from tip to tip, which had been shown along the proposed of the letter, while on a visit to one of the settlements.

Mr. de Glauville, the rector, was shown the skin of an alligator eight feet long from tip to tip, which had been shown about that times but the alligator is the proposed of the letter, while on a visit to one of the settlements.

There seems, however, to be no reasoned in the second and the second and the proposed of the letter, while on a visit to one of the settlements.

The vasa wintry night, and the second and the second and the second and the second and the proposed of the letter, while on a visit to one of the settlements.

The vasa wintry night and the second and the proposed of the letter, while on a visit to one of the settlements.

The vasa wintry night and the second and the second and the second and the second and the second

and had been seen on shore several times before it was shot.

There seems, however, to be no reasonable doubt that the alligator was drifted by the current from the southeast to Inagua on a log of mahogony from San Domingo, the nearest place in which alligators are found. This means that it traveled a distance of from 100 to 150 miles. With regard to the occurrence of alligators on Andros. Catesby was a very accurate observer, and there seems to be no reason for doubting his statement. These aligators would appear to have been carried on driftwood from the northwest coast of Cuba, a distance of 300 miles by the guif stream, and cast on the edge of the Great Bahama bank, whence local currents, aided by the wind, might have carried them to the west coast of Andros. The absence of traditions on the subject may be owing to the fact that the present inhabitants of Andros are principally be owing to the fact that the present inhabitants of Andros are principally descendants of persons who settled there at a period subsequent to Catesby's

While on the subject of Andres, may I be allowed to mention two rather curious superatitions current among the inhabitants of that interesting island? The "Mexico." of the northern part of the island consists of swamps and lakes, interspersed with patches of recky ground on which the Bahama pine (P. Bahamanis), grows thickly. The negroes have a great dislike to entering these pines woods alone, or even in small companies, for they say that a peculiar race of malevolent being, called "little people," inhabit the trees. These creatures are said to be like tiny men covered with hair. They sit on the pine boughs, and if a man notices them and points them out to his companions, the wine, party is rendered immovable for a day and a night; but, if fire is thrown at the "little people," they do ppear without doing any harm.

The other superatition also relates to

doing any horm.

The other superstition also relates to the pine woods. Creatures like enormous hairy men, called by the negroes "Ynyhoos," are said to march about the woods in "schools," the largest coming first; and "when dey cotch you dey tear you." These beings are much more dreaded than the "little people." It looks as if their name had been given by some as if their name had been given by some travelers familiar with "Gulliver's Trav-els," and struck with the resemblance between them and the terrible creatures veognized their parents in the dead ashes of

the past. They were Lott grave, until Alice ittered a little hysterical ary and dropped for face in her hands. Joe was instantly belief her.

"It's nothing; Joe, nothing. Pon't read it, clease; please; don't. It's so fur ny! it's so ery queer!"

"It's so fur ny! it's so of the small aboreal monkeys, while the "Yayloog" represent the region and the terrible creatures of Swift's imagination.

Both of these superstitions would appear to be traditions of the land from which the negroes originally came. The "little people" are probably a recollection of the small aboreal monkeys, while the "Yayloog" represent the region.

"Yayhoos" represent the gorillas of west Africa,—John Gardiner in Science. Sweet Potato of the South The sweet potato is to the south about what the common potato is to Ireland or Germany. It forms a very large part of the food of the negroes and poor whites—in fact, it frequently takes the place of bread to a great extent. The favorite way of cooking it here is to bake it in the oven or in the asies. The children are fond of burying the potatoes in the asies at night, so that they may slowly cook at night. The southern-grown sweet potatoes are larger and sweeter than those grown at the north. Those raised in Mexico are very sweet indeed.—Chicago Times, onke it in the oven or in the ashes.

Electricity is a Remany.

Electricity is becoming the favorite remedial agency of what might be called the invalid sex; treatment by battery for everything from cancer to muddy. for everything from cancer to muddy complexions is in vogue now, and when complexions is in vogue now, and when regular physicians can not be brought to give it in the desired quantity other people can. A habit, what should it be called—an electrical habit or an electricity habit? Anyway, an injurious habitual dissipation on electricity is said to be quite possible, and in fact to be all ready in existence in some cases and impending in many more.—New York Graphic. Graphic.

Graphic.

Self-Lighting Waterfalls.

Electric lighting in the Black Forest is carried to the paradox of making the waterfalls light up themselves by night. The power exerted by the fall of water generates all the electricity and through that all the illumination that moonlight. Bengal lights and Roman candles, in olden times, and even yet in other places, are depended on to supply. As a consequence at Triberg and Tarasp, in the lower Engadine, they have moonlight nights (artificial) all through the season.—Chicago Herald.

Little Brether of the Sec.

former acquaintances, when, a year later, band's decease, they were still more astounded by the information, a year
Inter, that she was
engaged to be married to a Mr. Ryder,
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